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ARMS CONTROL

Europe's Year of Protest

As a household name, Mient-Jan Faber hardly ranks with Yuri Andropov. Yet the congenial Dutch math teacher may represent almost as big a threat to Western defense plans as the Soviet boss. Blending patient organization with pressure politics, Faber's Interchurch Peace Council has largely blocked Holland's plan to deploy U.S. nuclear missiles. And as Europe's peace movement girds for a year of protest, the Dutch model serves as its inspiration. Across the Continent, today's activists come equipped with a newfound political sophistication and with the advantage of an audience already nervous about nukes. That combination has fired the peace movement with optimism. It now challenges NATO's nuclear game plan as none of the old street demonstrations ever did.

Throughout 1983, Europe faces a tide of antinuclear protest and politics. British women have camped beside the Greenham Common air base for months ready to block the first shipment of missiles—while the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is mustering as many as 100,000 volunteers to canvass British voters against nuclear weapons. Some 160 Belgian towns have already declared themselves "de-nuclearized," and peace agents will be lobbying Florennes, the country's presumed missile site, to join the list. West Germany's antinu-

clear Green Party stands a healthy chance of winning parliamentary representation in the March 6 elections, competing for seats with missile opponents among the establishment Social Democrats. As the NATO deployment nears, the demonstrations will grow more intense. Plans for an autumn campaign in West Germany include civil disobedience, passive resistance and blockading military bases. "Unrest will reign in the Federal Republic for weeks and weeks," promises Jo Leinen, a protest leader.

Moscow openly cheers on the Western peace movement, but antinuclear leaders insist that they can manage their protest without Soviet help—or any particular East-bloc bias. "We want once and for all to be rid of the specter of anti-Americanism that has hovered around us for so long," says Wolfgang Ludwig of West Germany's Greens. As a political party, the Greens are entitled to state campaign funds, and will spend \$380,000 of the money on peace events—including a February "war crimes" tribunal in Nuremberg that will condemn "mass-destruction weapons" in both East and West. Leaders of the May 15 peace demonstration in West Berlin's Olympic Stadium have sought contributions from a wide spectrum of sympathizers across Europe. Greece's culture minister, Melina Mercouri, has offered to organize a relay to deliver the Olympic flame from Athens to Berlin.

Unity: As an offshoot of his Interchurch Peace Council, Faber has organized the International Peace and Communications Center, which serves as a clearinghouse for antinuclear strategy. The center takes on a

range of modest projects, such as staffing the Italian "peace camp" at Comiso, the prospective missile site in southern Sicily; and it plays a major role helping the West German movement keep some semblance of unity. Faber himself, the best-known public figure in Holland after Queen Beatrix, already has his sights on loftier ideals. "In a sense, the issue of cruise missiles is probably over, so far as the Netherlands is concerned," he says. "It is time to be thinking of other steps, of ways to move from the divisions of Europe to a situation where all of us can live in security and peace together."

If that sounds like a call for European neutralism, Faber tries to avoid the label: as one assurance that he takes Western defense seriously, his council advocates improvements in Dutch conventional forces as an

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